

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
/059 W

-----090219Z 119046 /64

R 081705Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO USMISSION NATO
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 591
SECDEF
USNMR/SHAPE
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4428

FOR AMBASSADOR BENNETT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: NATO, SP
SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO--SPANISH WAR COLLEGE SEMINAR

1. THE SEMINAR ON "EUROPEAN DEFENSE" HELD AT THE SPANISH WAR COLLEGE (CESEDEN) JUNE 6-8 WAS A CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS. I WANT YOU TO KNOW DIRECTLY HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE THE HARD WORK PUT INTO THIS BY COL. MCKENNEY, CL. PHILLIPS, LT. COL. PRICE AND LT. COL. MACDONALD. THEY ARE FIRST-CLASS DIPLOMATS, AND WERE ABLE TO TREAD VERY WELL THE DIFFICULT LINE BETWEEN MEETING SPANISH DESIRES FOR GREATER INFORMATION ON THE ALLIANCE AND STAYING WITHIN THE BOUNDS IMPOSED BY NATO SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS.

2. OUR AUDIENCE WAS A DISTINGUISHED ONE, CONSISTING OF RANKING REPRESENTATIVES NOT ONLY OF THE WAR COLLEGE BUT ALSO OF THE HIGH GENERAL STAFF, THE THREE MILITARY MINISTRIES, THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT, AND THE SPANISH EMBASSY IN BRUSSELS (REPRESENTED BY THE DEFENSE ATTACHE). SPANISH MEMBERS
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OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION WITH NATO AND OF THE COMBINED MILITARY COORDINATION & PLANNING STAFF ALSO PARTICIPATED. LUNCHEONS WERE GIVEN FOR THE PARTICIPANTS ON THE LATTER TWO DAYS OF THE SEMINAR BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS AND THE DIRECTOR OF CESEDEN, AT WHICH THERE WERE FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE VISITING OFFICERS.

3. THE ONLY UNTOWARD INCIDENT, WHICH SERVED TO REMIND THE PARTICIPANTS OF AN UNPLEASANT ASPECTS OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN SPAIN, WAS A TELEPHONED BOMB THREAT ON THE SECOND DAY, WHICH REQUIRED ONLY A BRIEF INTERRUPTION IN THE PROCEEDINGS.

4. OUR WILLINGNESS IN THIS INSTANCE TO BE FORTHCOMING AND RESPONSIVE TO THE SPANISH GOVT INTEREST IN INFORMATION ABOUT THE ALLIANCE, AT A TECHNICAL AND REASONABLY DETAILED LEVEL, ADVANCES OUR INTEREST IN DRAWING SPAIN TOWARD THE ALLIANCE. I WOULD HOPE THAT IN THE FALL WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO CARRY FORWARD SUCH INITIATIVES, DIRECTLY INVOLVING SELECTED ALLIES TO THE EXTENT THIS MAY HAVE BECOME POSSIBLE AFTER SPANISH ELECTIONS. STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, SEMINARS, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MADRID04428
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770205-0267
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770679/aaaacqzo.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5b8ca182-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2231569
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPAIN AND NATO--SPANISH WAR COLLEGE SEMINAR
TAGS: MILI, OCON, SP, XG, NATO
To: NATO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5b8ca182-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009